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Houston, Texas 77013

January 26, 2016

Anne Foster
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Anne Foster:

It's time to step out to the world, take action and make a change for our planet. There are a lot of things happening on our planet that we don't worry about such as the waste pits in the San Jacinto River that affect our community and others around us. They takes the beauty out of it, and the toxins spread into yards and cause health issues. This is a problem in our environment that will continue to expand if we don't step ahead and make sure the river gets clean.

First of all, these chemicals that are spread into the San Jacinto River take away from the beauty of the environment. The river may have a horrible color and a bad smell which send a bad message about the community. The people that visit San Jacinto would not have a very good image of the River or place due to the way it looks. Their thoughts toward the place can make them think very badly and also give them that sense of unhealthy activity around the community.

Secondly, these chemicals spread into yards when it floods. When it rains, the polluted water in the San Jacinto River goes into families' yards. It's really dangerous for children. Kids that go outside and play will not be able to because it can affect the child's health. Families in the community will be too scared to go outside. They will not be able to spend time outside with each other.

Furthermore, the wastes pits of the San Jacinto River have been causing a lot of cancer. The people that live around the river have been diagnosed with different types of deadly cancers. The wastes pits have caused childhood cancers of the eyes (retinoblastoma) and skin and brain cancer in people that live near the San Jacinto River. The polluted water also causes other cancers that adults get in that area of the San Jacinto River such as female breast cancer and male breast cancer. These health issues have been changing people's lives and affecting their future. Families suffer because of the situation. The chemicals in that river are not doing any good for them.

The San Jacinto River should have been cleaned a long time ago. The toxins, and chemicals should have been taken care of before all of these disasters started happening. It's not too late to make a change now and take action to stop this before it gets even worse. You have the power to bring the beauty back to the community, to take out the smell, and make the health issues stop.

People can live peacefully because the river can be clean. The floods won't be as dangerous to families' yards. All of this can come back because it's not all about money. It is all about taking a step for our community and keeping the earth clean and our people safe. It's time to take the polluted water out and bring back the San Jacinto River we had 60 years ago.

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